

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

These amendments introduce no new matter and support for the amendments is replete throughout the application as originally filed. These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter, or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A method of fermenting a plurality of samples, the method comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of sample vessels in a container frame, wherein each of the sample vessels contains a sample; **and,**

(b) fermenting the samples in the plurality of sample vessels, which fermenting comprises simultaneously delivering gas to each of the sample vessels via a plurality of cannulas associated with the sample vessels.

Claim 43 (Original): The method of claim 42, wherein each sample has a volume of less than 100 ml.

Claim 44 (Original): The method of claim 42, further comprising pre-processing or post-processing the samples in the sample vessels.

Claim 45 (Original): The method of claim 44, wherein the pre-processing or post-processing is performed in a different location than step (b).

Claim 46 (Original): The method according to claim 44, wherein the pre-processing and/or post-processing are performed robotically.

Claim 47 (Original): The method according to claim 44, wherein the pre-processing and/or post-processing comprises centrifugation, aspiration, or dispensing of one or more reagent.

Claim 48 (Original): The method of claim 42, wherein delivering gas comprises delivering oxygen, air, and/or, nitrogen to the samples.

Claim 49 (Original): The method of claim 42, wherein delivering gas comprises delivering air and oxygen to the samples over a period of time, during which period of time, the ratio of air to oxygen changes.

Claim 50 (Original): The method of claim 49, wherein the ratio changes linearly over time or in a stepwise manner over time.

Claim 51 (Original): The method of claim 42, further comprising configuring the sample vessels into a rectangular array, a honeycomb array, or a linear array within the container frame.

Claim 52 (Original): The method of claim 42, further comprising transferring the sample vessels into a centrifuge rotor.

Claim 53 (Original): The method according to claim 42, further comprising detecting one or more fermentation conditions with a sensor coupled to one or more sample vessels and adjusting the fermentation conditions in the sample vessels.

Claim 54 (Original): The method according to claim 53, comprising detecting and adjusting at pre-determined time intervals.

Claim 55 (Original): The method according to claim 53, wherein the adjusting the fermentation conditions comprises adding a feed solution to the sample vessels.

Claim 56 (Original): The method according to claim 53, wherein the detecting comprises: measuring a pH of one of the samples; measuring a redox potential of one of the samples; measuring an optical density of one of the samples; and/or measuring a light emission from one of the samples.

Claim 57 (Original): The method of claim 42, further comprising autoclaving the sample vessels in the container frame.

Claim 58 (Original): The method of claim 57, further comprising autoclaving the plurality of cannulas simultaneously with the sample vessels in the container frame.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): A method of fermenting a plurality of samples, the method comprising:

- (a) positioning a plurality of sample vessels into a transportable container frame, which container frame maintains the sample vessels in an array;
- (b) placing the plurality of samples into the plurality of sample vessels;
- (c) attaching a fermentor head to the container frame, which fermentor head comprises an array of cannulas, wherein the array of cannulas corresponds to the array of sample vessels and is inserted into the sample vessels; and,
- (d) fermenting the samples in the sample vessels, which fermenting ~~comprising~~comprises simultaneously delivering a gas to the samples via the array of cannulas.

Claim 60 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein step (c) is performed prior to step (b).

Claim 61 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein step (b) is performed prior to step (a).

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 59, wherein delivering a gas ~~comprising~~comprises delivering oxygen, nitrogen, and/or air to the sample vessels during step (d).

Claim 63 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein step (d) is an anaerobic fermentation comprising delivering an inert gas to maintain anaerobic fermentation conditions in the sample vessels.

Claim 64 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein the sample vessels each have a volume between 50 and 200 ml.

Claim 65 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein the sample vessels have a volume between 80 and 100 ml.

Claim 66 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein each sample has a volume less than 200 ml.

Claim 67 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein each sample has a volume of less than 100 ml.

Claim 68 (Original): The method of claim 69, comprising robotically transporting the sample vessels in the container frame.

Claim 69 (Original): The method of claim 59, further comprising simultaneously transporting the plurality of sample vessels in the container frame to a processing station.

Claim 70 (Original): The method of claim 69, wherein the processing station comprises a centrifuge, an aspirator, and/or a dispenser.

Claim 71 (Original): The method of claim 70, wherein the sample container is compatible with the centrifuge.

Claim 72 (Original): The method of claim 70, wherein the sample vessels are compatible with the centrifuge.

Claim 73 (Original): The method of claim 70, further comprising removing the sample vessels from the container frame and introducing the sample vessels into the centrifuge.

Claim 74 (Original): The method of claim 70, wherein the aspirator comprises an aspirator head which corresponds to the array of sample vessels within the container frame, the method further including operably attaching the aspirator head to the sample vessels and simultaneously aspirating the samples within the sample vessels.

Claim 75 (Original): The method of claim 70, the method further dispensing one or more materials into the sample vessels.

Claim 76 (Original): The method of claim 70, wherein the dispenser comprises a dispensing head corresponding to the array of sample vessels, the method further including operably attaching the dispenser head to the sample vessels and simultaneously dispensing one or more materials into the sample vessels.

Claim 77 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein the array comprises an 8 by 12 array.

Claim 78 (Original): The method of claim 59, wherein the array comprises 96, 384, or 1536 sample vessels.

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Claim 79 (Original): The method of claim 59, further comprising positioning the sample vessels in the container frame in a water bath during the fermenting step in order to control the fermentation temperature.

Claims 80-85 (Cancelled)